

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In my opinion, the Ministry of State Planning is more important than the newly-established Ministry of State Control. I think the role of the latter has been over-emphasized by the West, as shown by newspaper accounts. The Ministry of State Planning is in charge of all government planning. In my opinion, the Ministry of State Control performs simply a coordinating function among ministries and agencies of the government. For instance, I heard a broadcast from Prague concerning difficulties handicapping production under one of the ministries. (I think it was the Ministry of Industry.) The broadcast went on to say that the Ministry would make every effort to correct the situation. I have heard nothing about the Ministry of State Control concerning itself directly with investigations or taking corrective measures in such cases. Instead I think that it merely coordinates recommendations for more efficient operation and increased production. It is still the ministry or agency concerned which is charged with corrective measures, and the most important job is still done by the Ministry of State Planning and the individual ministries.
2. When the Ministry of State Control was created in September 1951, the Supreme Auditor's Office was abolished and its functions given to the new Ministry. (I know nothing about the Bratislava Auditor's Court.) The director of the Supreme Auditor's Office was Dr (fnu) Friedmann, a long-time Social Democrat and an ambassador under the First Republic. I do not

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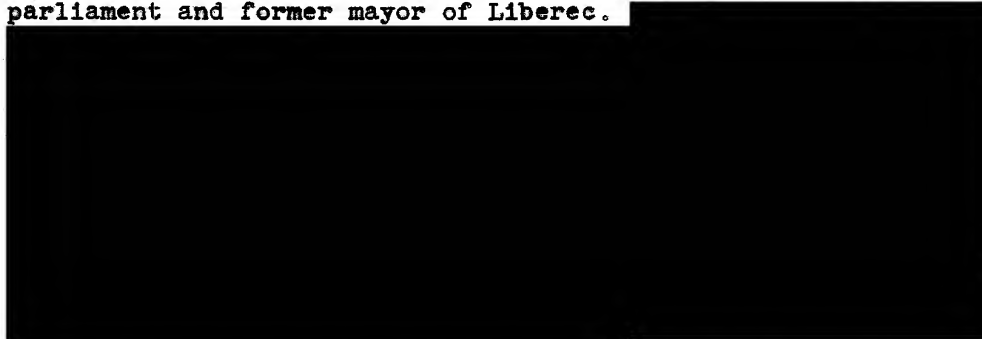
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know if Dr Friedmann remained with the Ministry of State Control, but he was still in Prague in mid-1951. A part of the Economic Department of the Office of the Prime Minister also came under the Ministry of State Control when it was created; the main portion of this department, however, remained under the Ministry of State Planning.

3. The first Minister of State Control, Karol Bacilek, was replaced early in 1952 by Jan Harus, member of the Czech parliament and former mayor of Liberec.

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4. I have heard nothing to indicate that there is any liaison between the Ministry of State Control and ministries in the USSR or in the Satellites, nor have I heard anything regarding Soviet personnel or advisers in the Ministry of State Control.

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